

Arizona eLearning Taskforce

Minutes of the Meeting

Friday, March 7, 2008

10:00am – 12:00pm

Arizona Department of Education

Conference Room 417

Members Present:

Galen Updike – Representing Chris Cummiskey

Debra Lorenzen

Theodore Kraver

Joseph O'Reilly

Cathy Poplin

Mark Nichols

Members Not Present:

Lisa Long

Sandi Grandberry

Rod Lenniger

Casey Loman

Handouts:

- Agenda for March 7, 2008
- February 8, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Agenda for the Congress on the Future of Content Texas Hearing Agenda
- Arizona Virtual Library
- Teaching and Learning for the 21st Century Summary Report
- GAZEL Summit Education Workshop Policy and Strategy Results Maximizing the Impact: The Pivotal Role of Technology in a 21st Century Education System
- Legislative Presentation Handout – Original Proposal for TAPBI.

Welcome and Introductions – *The meeting is recorded on tape and available for full review*

Cathy Poplin called the meeting to order at 10:08 am. Cathy welcomed those in attendance and asked the ELTF members to introduce themselves and give a brief update.

- Theodore Kraver introduced himself and stated he would give his update during his time as stated on the agenda.
- Debra Lorenzen introduced herself and gave a brief update on a Ready To Learn initiative called Raising Readers. Debra will provide more information as the program progresses.
- Mark Nichols introduced himself and gave a brief update on the upcoming Microcomputers in Education Conference (MEC) at ASU, March 10th – 12th.
- Joseph O'Reilly introduced himself with no updates.
- Galen Updike was representing Chris Cummiskey and filling in for DJ Harper. Galen is the Telecommunications Development Manager for GITA. Galen informed the ELTF he is working on creating a 211 system for Arizona. 211 is a number that the public can call to get “up to date” information regarding their social and public needs. This will help relieve stress on 911 calls by thirty percent. GITA is also looking into increasing cyber security for all Arizona state agencies. Galen is focused on increasing broadband access.

- Hank Stabler, ADE consultant, introduced himself and gave a brief update on HB2787. The bill deals with the collection of data related to teachers. The bill has just passed the Education Committee and is going before the House. Hank advised he would keep the ELTF informed as this bill progresses.
- Ruth Catalano, ADE consultant introduced herself with no updates.
- Cathy Poplin introduced herself and updated the ELTF on a hearing she attended. Cathy informed the ELTF that she went to Austin, Texas February 26th and 27th and testified at the Congress on the Future of Content. The majority of the participants were publishers. The publishers are trying to understand their role in a paperless society, and to move towards digital textbooks without eliminating the content. The publishers are being asked to create a digital textbook not to simply create a PDF version of a regular textbook. Cathy noted that she was the only representative from a non-textbook adoption state and most of her testimony was based on the Math RFP that the ELTF created.

Cathy asked the guests in attendance to introduce themselves: Elise Piatt with Triadvocates: Larissa Krew with Carnegie Learning: Nan Williams, Brett Hinton with ADE and Mike Ruppel with Tempe Union High School District #213.

Report on Distance Learning meeting sponsored by Rep. Tobin – Cathy Poplin

Cathy gave an update on a meeting she attended regarding the Arizona Virtual Library. The meeting was hosted by Dr. Carol Peck with The Rodel Foundation and led by Rep. Andy Tobin. This meeting is a continuation from Representative Andy Tobin’s vision for an online learning library/virtual classroom. The University of Phoenix has offered to allow the state of Arizona to use of their online infrastructure. The next step for this group will be to discuss the creation of a “Seal of Approval” by ADE that will indicate which online courses have met Arizona Standards and AIMS. Cathy stated the small group covered much ground and Cathy will keep the ELTF informed as the discussions progress.

Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2008

Cathy Poplin asked the ELTF to review the meeting minutes from February for approval. ELTF members noted no changes. Joseph O’Reilly made a motion to accept the minutes and Theodore Kraver seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted to the ADE website.

Report from the eLearning Summit February 20, 2008 – Theodore Kraver

Theodore Kraver gave the ELTF an update on HB2064. This bill strengthens the ELTF duties. The bill has been approved and assigned to the House Education Committee and Senate. This bill doesn’t have any money attached to it and should pass without any problems. Theodore will keep the ELTF informed.

Ted also provided a summary of the GAZEL eLearning Summit held on February 20, 2008. The focus of the summit was on Policy and Strategy. There were five workshops to address policy and implementation of strategy. The policy sessions were held in the morning with the strategy sessions in the afternoon. Theodore facilitated the eLearning Education Workshop with approximately 40 people in attendance. There was representation from all of the communities except in the area of research. Theodore handed out a report that summarized the results from the workshop he conducted and gave an overview of the report. Cathy Poplin asked if there would be a report on the other workshops from the eLearning Summit. Theodore replied yes, and once they are available he would supply Cathy with a copy of those reports.

Cathy Poplin asked the ELTF for permission to re-arrange a few of the agenda items, to allow more time for all the presentations listed on the agenda. The ELTF agreed.

Update on Middle School Math RFP Evaluation – Hank Stabler

Hank Stabler gave an update on the Middle School Math RFP evaluations. The first round of evaluations has concluded and the field has been narrowed down to four candidates. The remaining four candidate's names have been given to the ADE Procurement Department. The Procurement Specialist will be contacting the four candidates to schedule demonstrations on their systems for the evaluation committee. Procurement is giving the candidates 7-10 days to prepare for their demonstrations. The candidates will have the option of choosing a face to face evaluation or a webinar presentation. Once those evaluations are complete the ELTF will then be able to make a recommendation to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC).

Final review of Middle School Math Pilot Application – Ruth Catalano

Ruth Catalano informed the ELTF that the process is taking a little longer than expected and that many schools will be going on Spring Break. Rather than have some schools receive the notification and some not, the application will be postponed until a content provider has been selected. A majority of schools have already begun their budget process and their scheduling for their students. Since this pilot will impact their scheduling and budget it was best thought to allow them time to provide accurate and up to date information.

Broadband Access Update – Galen Updike

Galen Updike from GITA gave a PowerPoint Presentation to the ELTF entitled Twenty-First Century Public Administrators and Elected Officials Must Use and Understand New Technologies. The main point of this presentation is to educate public administrators and elected officials on new technology. Public administrators and elected officials must understand that the current generation absorbs knowledge differently than generations in the past. Government officials need to understand that in order for the new technology to be used effectively, it will also take faster broadband connections to implement the new technology. The United States has moved from first place (2001) in regards to the world's position on broadband and technology deployment to 15th-21st place, depends on which national index you use.

The minimum standard by the FCC that we are measured against for broadband connection is 200 kbit/s (as of March 19, 2008 the FCC increased the minimum speed to 768 kbit/s). 384 kbps is the minimum speed to send a live video at 30 frames per second across a full 1920 pixel screen. The next speed is 1.5 mbps; this is the standard for which we have measured by for years, more commonly known as a T1 line. 45mbps is an intermediate speed, more commonly used for "YouTube" type activity. This speed is known as a DS3, ranging in cost from \$4,500 to \$5,000 a month for a school to use. 80mbps is what the market would bare if everyone had all the different types of Internet activity. For example, 80mbps is needed in order to have HDTV in your home via your Internet connection.

Currently one million citizens in the state of Arizona do not have the FCC definition of broadband access. At the school district level, 20% of the districts have a school that only has dial-up access. Rural areas are affected the most. To assist the rural areas with obtaining broadband access, GITA is working on a budget to build the Middle Mile. The Middle Mile is the pipeline of fiber optic lines that provide broadband access from the urban areas to the rural areas. When vendors are putting in the fiber optic lines, they look at the economic return of investment (ROI). When a vendor's ROI is too low for them they bypass the rural areas. GITA

will have a budget, if it passes, of approximately two million dollars to select six or seven communities in which to build the Middle Mile.

GITA is putting together a survey based on school district areas to gather data on the location and type of broadband access/connection points throughout the state of Arizona. The survey will also provide information statewide on the costs per user for broadband access in a certain areas. GITA is aiming for a budget approval of \$500,000. The first \$50,000 will be spent towards creating the survey. Pending budget approval, the survey will be completed by November 2008.

Presentation by Tempe Union High School TAPBI – Mike Ruppel

Cathy Poplin introduced Mike Ruppel, Chief Information Officer, Tempe Union High School. Mike Ruppel gave everyone a copy of The Tempe Union High School District #213 Legislative Presentation Handout – Original Proposal for TAPBI. The handout goes over the TUHS TAPBI project process. One of the first hurdles TUHS District had to overcome was the district's curriculum adoption policy. To tackle this issue it was decided to create online courses using the curriculum they already offer. They created their own learning management system to assist with the transition. The transition includes: instructional materials, project based activities, practice testing, achievement testing and all the components necessary to administer the entire course, interactively, with students not located in a regular classroom setting. Courses are not self paced, must have a teacher present and the duration of the course is one full semester.

TUHS TAPBI has thirty-three courses, 200-250 seats (1 kid, 1 section), 10-12 students counting toward ADM, 0 fulltime TAPBI students. TUHS TAPBI only serves students that want to take an online course or would like to take an extra course. TAPBI teachers are retired or work on a part time basis. Cathy Poplin asked how TUHS TAPBI will move forward. Mike replied progression will be slow and deliberate.

Public Testimony

No guest comments

Next Meeting

Cathy informed the ELTF the next meeting will be April 4, 2008.

Adjourn

Cathy Poplin adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm